GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:326
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2001
EXPLORATION BY ONGC IN BHUJ AND GUJARAT
SUNIL KHAN

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has conducted exploration work in Bhuj and other areas of Gujarat without any safeguard measures;

(b) whether it is also a fact that underground oil prone zone with a hard soil on the surface level has not protected according to Geo-physics rule at the time of exploration;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any responsibility has been fixed in this regard;

(e) if so, the details in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar)

(a): No, Sir.

(b): ONGC carries out exploration works with the prevailing industry standard safety precautions. As per Geophysical/Geoscientific hydrocarbon exploration domain, presence of hard rock above the oil zone is considered to be a favourable criterion for protection of oil.

(c) to (f) Do not arise.